

**BT Events and/or Submissions to the State Health and Environmental
Testing Laboratory from Sentinel Laboratories that Qualify for
Reporting to US CDC, Maine, 2001-2011**

Year	Number of Events
2001	384*
2002	81*
2003	36*
2004	17
2005	10
2006	9
2007	11
2008	7
2009	8
2010	7
2011	10

Data Source: Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL).

Events included are those that qualified for entry in the US CDC's Laboratory Response Network biological messenger module

Sentinel laboratories are private laboratories that receive substances for public health-related tests, and are required to send certain types of isolates to the Maine HETL for further testing. The US CDC provides guidelines as to which of these tests are reported to them.

*In 2003 HETL made a concerted effort to provide first responders with guidelines which defined what should be sent for screening and eliminate the "nuisance white powders". During this same time, sentinel labs were given rule in/ rule out guidelines to determine if they needed to send isolates to HETL for further identification of potential bioterrorism agents. These efforts explain the reduction of submissions.